

is ready to have that conversation with me.

I thank you Madam Speaker PELOSI for your many years of service as the Speaker of the House. You have been the person who taught me to say Madam Speaker, as well as many others, I might add, because before you there was not a Madam Speaker. I appreciate the service that you have rendered. I thank you for the many opportunities that I have had to speak on the floor.

To Mr. HOYER, the majority leader currently: I greatly appreciate the many things you have done, Mr. HOYER, to help me with legislation. You have been a real friend to me. I won't forget many of the things that you have done to help my constituents and this country legislatively speaking. You have taken some tough positions, Mr. HOYER, but history is going to reward you for those tough positions.

Mr. CLYBURN, I admire you and thank you for staying on. Your wisdom is needed. You have seen things because you have lived longer. I haven't lived as long. I respect the wisdom that you accord me. I recently celebrated my 25th birthday for the third time. I respect you, Mr. CLYBURN, and I appreciate the fact that you are staying on in a leadership position.

To those who have just acquired these new positions, I am going to do everything that I can to make your administration a success. I stand ready to work closely with you, as closely as you would have me work with you. I stand ready to do the things that can help you to achieve your goals.

I do believe that we have selected capable, competent, and qualified people who are ready to assume leadership in the next Congress—we are in the 117th now—in the 118th Congress, I believe they are ready. I believe Mr. JEFFRIES is ready. I believe that he has been seasoned properly and that he is ready to grow into this position.

So, dear brother—if I may be so bold as to say dear brother as opposed to Mr. Minority-Leader-to-be—dear brother, I want to see you do well as is the case with the rest of your leadership team. I look forward to serving you as we serve the people of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON HARD- WORKING AMERICAN TAX- PAYERS FACE ECONOMIC CRISIS

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RUTHERFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Christmas season, hardworking American taxpayers are facing an economic crisis. American families have been suffering with record-high inflation for the last 18 months.

Mr. Speaker, over the last of couple months, I have had an opportunity back home in northeast Florida to talk to some of my constituents about the impact that these record-high inflation prices are having on their lifestyles.

One of my constituents from St. Augustine shared with me that her energy bill has already gone up 40 percent—40 percent. The gas prices have limited her ability to see family and friends. In spite of just celebrating her 80th birthday—she is 80 years old—she is now having to go back to cutting her own grass and to doing her own home repairs so that she can stay within her fixed budget.

Mr. Speaker, we think this inflation is bad for those who are working and hardworking taxpayers. It is even worse for those on a fixed income. In fact, I had an elderly couple tell us that these high food and high fuel costs have actually caused them—they were looking forward to their retirement—have driven them to cut back on many essentials.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a small amount of money we are talking about in this inflation. We are talking about \$700 a month. That is more than \$8,000 a year out of the pockets not only of hardworking, taxpaying Americans, but those elderly on fixed income.

This is bad news for all of us. Yet just the other day, President Biden boasted of “slowing” price hikes earlier this week as a sign of good news for this holiday season.

This is his exact quote: “Inflation at the grocery stores, thank God, is beginning to slow. Prices for things like new clothes, televisions, and appliances are going down. That's good news for the holiday season.”

Mr. Speaker, last I checked, food is up over 12 percent, energy and gas are both up over 17 percent, electricity is up 14 percent, public transportation upon which many of our working poor depend is up 28 percent, flour is up 24 percent, chicken is up 14 percent, and eggs are up an incredible 43 percent. Finally, milk is up 14 percent.

Everything is more expensive under this Biden administration.

Mr. Speaker, do you know why?

Because this administration believes we can spend our way out of this problem. But that very reckless spending is what got us here in the first place. The value of the dollar cannot recover if we just continue printing money.

In the last 2 years, this is what we have seen with one party, one rule. I am going to ask people to just reflect back, if you can, to the economy that this country was enjoying in 2019, just 2 years before the pandemic shut down our economy, before COVID destroyed an economy that was the best this country had ever seen.

The Trump economy was growing. The GDP was growing at over 3, 3½ percent.

Now what do we face after one party, one rule for 2 years?

Higher interest rates on our Federal debt that is now at a record level—\$31

trillion-plus. We passed an American Rescue Plan in which the Democrats gave us \$1.9 trillion, over \$1 trillion in Biden executive order spending.

The Inflation Reduction Act—which is kind of a misnomer, obviously—spent another \$745 billion.

Then, finally, most recently, another \$500 billion for student loan cancellation.

This spending is not sustainable.

The good news is that the American public chose not to accept this, and they put an end to one party, one rule, and come January we will put an end to that.

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Hopefully, we can get back to that 2019 economy. In January, when the Republicans take back this majority, Mr. Speaker, after we defund the 87,000 IRS agents, we need to start looking at restoring America's energy independence. Right now, today, Americans are gearing up to pay more for energy, as they prepare for this holiday season, in an attempt to heat their homes.

This energy crisis does not just impact us at the gas pump. All goods cost more because energy is consumed, and more expensive, when it is across every level of our supply chain.

Meanwhile, the President continues to reject commonsense solutions that could alleviate this energy crisis that we are facing. It is almost unconscionable that he sits on 4,600 drilling permits and will not allow them to be released. Instead, he restricts the possibility of American energy independence and goes to OPEC, hat in hand, asking for their assistance to pump more oil, or he goes to authoritarian dictators like Maduro, asking for more Venezuelan oil.

Then his Inflation Reduction Act, which is anything but, that \$745 billion instead of reducing inflation is really a socialist climate deal that caters to very special interest groups. I will give you just a couple of examples.

People who buy electric vehicles get tax credits. They are buying \$60,000-plus vehicles, and we are asking the hardworking taxpayers to help pay for those. Companies that use union labor get billions in green giveaways. Tech companies producing semiconductors got a special carve-out so that they can take their \$24 billion of new taxpayer subsidies to the bank. Corporations can purchase new electric vehicles and trucks on the taxpayer dime.

That is what we are doing with their money. Companies that have employed bribery, who are breaking the law and have to pay fines and penalties, they now get to take that off their book minimum tax. That simply overturns the tax code's current prohibition on such benefits. Those should never be tax deductions, not when you are paying penalties and fines for criminal behavior.

U.S. energy independence impacts every area of our lives, but the President would rather solely blame this

conflict on Ukraine and not admit that he could have done more to bolster our energy independence.

Instead, he is taking the tack that we are now really at a national security level where we are in danger because our Strategic Petroleum Reserve is at dangerously low levels. We withdrew our strategic energy reserves and then sold that to the Chinese Communist Party. You know, Americans all across this Nation are still scratching their heads on that one.

Yet, the President recently spoke of the reduction in fuel costs. Gasoline is going down, and he is happy with that. The fact of the matter is, the national average for a gallon of gas is \$3.52, a dollar more than when Biden took office. It was \$2.39 in January 2021.

His energy policy is an America last policy. It continues to exacerbate the oil supply and demand crisis right here at home. America was strongest when we had energy independence and could rely on our own resources.

Now, I can tell you that for our constituents who are depending on us in Congress to do great things for this country come January, we are going to have some real difficulties because it is not going to be one party, one rule. The Republicans won't have the same benefit of having the Senate and the White House that the Democrats have right now, so it is going to be tougher. We have to make a commitment to America, and we did.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to do everything we can to make this economy stronger and everything we can to make this country safer. A country that is more free, and a government that is absolutely more accountable, that is our commitment to America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Thursday, December, 1, 2022:

H.J. Res. 100. To provide for a resolution with respect to the unresolved disputes between certain railroads represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee of the National Railway Labor Conference and certain of their employees.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 5, 2022, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6064. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress covering the 6-month period, which ended on September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6065. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two (2) notices of a vacancy, and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6066. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Agency Financial Report for FY 2022, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6067. A letter from the Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2022 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6068. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6069. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2022, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6070. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2022 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 6012. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to better protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as "black lung disease"), and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-589, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 6102. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than December 15, 2022.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 9403. A bill to provide whistleblower protections to certain workers in the offshore oil and gas industry; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. ROY, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 9404. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from placing any vaccine for COVID-19 on the child and adolescent immunization schedule unless the Secretary has posted on the public website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all clinical data in the possession of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the safety and efficacy of such vaccine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9405. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to add additional investment thresholds for an individual to qualify as an accredited investor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 9406. A bill to create a special pay incentive for Customs and Border Protection law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 9407. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to implement the industry-recognized apprenticeship program process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 9408. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require that information required to be disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Commission by issuers be material to investors of those issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 9409. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an alternative removal for performance or misconduct for Federal employees; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9410. A bill to require auditor independence standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission applicable to past audits of a company occurring before it was a public company to treat an auditor as independent if the auditor meets established professional standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9411. A bill to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.